

James Gadsden to Andrew Jackson, July 30, 1823, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

COLONEL JAMES GADSDEN TO JACKSON.

St. Augustine, July 30, 1823.

. . . . I am happy to hear of the prospects in the Political world; though I do not rely so much on the influence of newspaper articles as you appear to do. The men most assailed and with most justice often succeed best politically. It arises either from the effect of political excitement which blinds the judgement and induces a population to follow their leader right or wrong; or from a total absence of virtue and patriotism in the community. Those under the latter denomination have been appropriately designated as Radicals. Men who are for themselves; who fight under no banner: who regard not the good of their country but only look to their individual aggrandisement. To such Mr C—d has appealed and with effect; for there is no man who in any way contributes to his elevation that does not expect an equivalent in return. His friends, with all the disclosures which have been made, are still confident: vigilant and active. They have in view their single object: their party is well organised and they move in concert. There is no doubt that the party opposed to Mr Crawford could triumph if they were united: but we find them divided between yourself: Calhoun and Adams. There ought therefore to be an understanding between the friends of you three so as ultimately to unite on the one whose election can be secured. You are gaining strength da[i]ly: and could the appeal be brought directly to the People I entertain no doubts of your election. The Politicians however are not so friendly and for the obvious reason you have made them no promises. There is a want of virtue among

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these men; I know not however that is peculiar to our country we find it every where and has been the cause hitherto of the destruction of governments. . . .